



EB  
Environ  
Docket  
11-7-00  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60962  
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Hidekuni MORIYA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/674,620

Group Art Unit: 2624

Filed: November 3, 2000

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING APPARATUS, IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING METHOD AND MEDIUM ON WHICH IMAGE DATA RETOUCHING PROGRAM IS RECORDED

RECEIVED

MAR 28 2001

Technology Center 2600

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

3. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said picture element characteristic determining unit utilizes for determination the positive or negative polarization of said distribution.

4. (Amended) An image data retouching apparatus, as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said picture element characteristic determining unit determines picture elements to be edge picture elements if the distribution in said range of greater differences is dominant and if said distribution is polarized positively or negatively.